

Dean's Newsletter

Issue 20, January 2018

The Dean's Newsletter is published every second month and provides updates on academics, research, events, and other items of interest. Join us in celebrating our achievements by submitting your updates to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca.

TOP STORIES

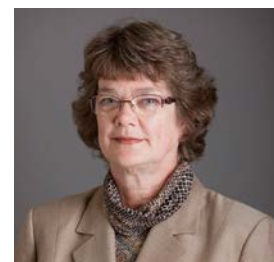
Indigenous Activities Fund

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is pleased to announce the new Indigenous Activity Fund to provide financial resources for activities to increase Indigenous representation and involvement through the weaving of Indigenous knowledges and practices within the college. The fund will provide \$100,000 over three years starting January 1, 2018 for these activities, and has been secured through donations from various external sources. [Read more.](#)



Grand Challenges Canada

Dr. Susan Whiting's work to use ground eggshells to prevent fluorosis was featured in a Grand Challenges Canada press release earlier this week. The organization announced a \$2 million investment in 20 Canadian innovations to address persistent challenges in women's and children's health in low- and middle-income countries. [Read more.](#)



Graduate Student Awards

Congratulations to **Mona Hamada** who received the 56th Eastern Analytical Symposium student research award in Analytical Chemistry. She was one of four graduate awardees from North America and the only one from Canada. Mona is supervised by **Drs. Anas El-Aneed** and **Darryl Adamko**.



Congratulations to PhD student **Mays Al-Dulaymi** who has been awarded the 2017 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Graduate Student Research Award in Drug Discovery and Development Interface. Mays is supervised by **Drs. Anas El-Aneed** and **Ildiko Badea**.



MORE COLLEGE NEWS



IN THE MEDIA

Dr. Robert Laprairie did a radio interview for Saskatoon Media Group's news division on Tuesday, November 7 about his research on cannabinoids and their applications in treating disease. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Hassan Vatanparast's interview about improving the nutritional value of lunches at child-care centres was aired on CBC Radio on Monday, November 13. [Read more.](#)

Kelly Kizlyk was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, November 14, to talk about how to deal with dry and itchy skin during the winter months. [Watch the video.](#)

Dr. Susan Whiting was interviewed by BBC World Service Newsday and 620 CKRM in November about her project funded by Grand Challenges Canada. [Read more.](#)



Kelly Kizlyk was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, December 12, to talk about must have medications for your medicine cabinet. [Watch the video.](#)

Dr. Robert Laprairie spoke to the media about the lack of medical marijuana research in late December. [Read more.](#)

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Dean Kishor Wasan's contribution to CIHR's Celebrating Health Research storybook was selected as one of Canada's Top 150 Research Stories. [Read more.](#)

Dean Kishor Wasan recently wrote an opinion piece for the British medical journal The Lancet. He explains how shifting some functions done by physicians to health care professionals such as pharmacists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners will improve access to care and patient satisfaction. [Read more.](#)

On Monday, November 27, **Dr. Jaris Swidrovich** spoke as part of a panel on campus for HIV/AIDS Awareness Week.



Welcome to **Sarah Poelzer** who joined the college as a Human Resource Specialist on Tuesday, January 2.



ALUMNI NEWS

Were you part of the Class of 2008? Your grad photos are now available on the digital kiosk. [Find a grad photo.](#)

On Saturday, September 30, **Darcy Scherle (BSP 1973)** and **Garry King (BSP 1970)** hosted a display on behalf of the Saskatchewan Pharmacy Museum Society and in connection with Cultural Days at the Victoria Square Shopping Centre in Regina.



Jeannette Sandiford (BSP 1988) was on CTV Morning Live - Regina on Thursday, November 1, to talk about how the COMPASS Program will help reduce medication errors in community pharmacies. [Watch the video.](#)

Justin Kosar (BSP 2008) spoke with CBC Saskatoon on Friday, November 2, about the new COMPASS program to report medication errors.

Brooke Bulloch (BScNutr 2009) was at The Local Kitchen on CTV Morning Live - Saskatoon on Tuesday, November 7, to talk about healthy options for comfort food. [Watch the video.](#)

Brooke Bulloch (BScNutr 2009) was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, November 21, to share her ideas for food swaps that lead to better blood sugars. [Watch the video.](#)

Lori Friesen (BSP 1990) helped fundraise for the Victoria Hospital Foundation's 12th annual Give a Little Life Day on Friday, December 1. The foundation was campaigning to purchase an automated medication packaging and dispensing system to allow hospital pharmacists to spend more time working with patients.



CEO Scott Livingstone (BSP 1988; MSc 1994) spoke with the media on Monday, December 4, as the new Saskatchewan Health Authority officially launched. [Read more.](#)

Brooke Bulloch (BScNutr 2009) was on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Tuesday, December 12, with some tasty non-alcoholic holiday drink options. [Watch the video.](#)

Julie Toppings (BSP 1987) and her colleagues published "Valacyclovir-associated neurotoxicity treated with intensification of peritoneal dialysis" in BMJ Case Reports in 2017.

The 2017 Reconnecting – College of Home Economics Alumni Newsletter is now available. [Read more.](#)

Do you have alumni news to share? Submit your story to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca to be featured in our next newsletter.



EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **Edith Rowles Simpson Lecture** will take place on **Thursday, March 22**. Details to follow.

The annual **College of Home Economics Alumni Luncheon** will take place again this spring in Saskatoon. Details to follow.

The college is in the planning process for our annual alumni events at the **Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan Conference, the Canadian Pharmacists Association Conference, and the Dietitians of Canada Conference**. Details to follow.

The **Dietitians of Canada Nutrition Research Day** will take place on **Thursday, April 26** on campus. The day highlights and celebrates the fourth year nutrition students' practice-based research project presentations, and features presentations by leading experts in food and nutrition.

PAST EVENTS

Congratulations to the Saskatchewan Pharmacy & Nutrition Student Society for raising \$1,875 for Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan at the 2017 Winter Formal in November.

In keeping with the holiday tradition in the college, the fourth year pharmacy students went caroling at the faculty's homes on Monday, December 4.

The annual College Holiday Party will take place on Saturday, November 26 at Boffins Public House. Thank you to fourth year pharmacy students **Brett Richter, Kaitlyn Tress, and Katherine DeMong** for dressing up as Santa and his elves to entertain the children in the afternoon.



Faculty and staff met on Friday, November 17 at the Willows Golf and Country Club to continue the strategic planning process for the college.

CAPSI University of Saskatchewan hosted Antibiotic Awareness Week November 6 – 10.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Congratulations to **Sarah Finch** who is our December Trainee Spotlight. Her PhD research focuses on understanding how vitamin D affects disease activity in Canadian children who are suffering from juvenile idiopathic arthritis. [Read more.](#)



Congratulations to **Dr. Holly Mansell** who is our January Researcher of the Month. She leads a project to improve patient education before kidney transplantation and post-transplant adherence. [Read more.](#)



TRAINEE SUCCESS

Program Update

Congratulations to the following students who successfully defended their theses this term: **Lila Abobakar** (Nutrition MSc, supervisor: Dr. Hassan Vatanparast), **Anan Ahmed** (Pharmacy MSc, supervisor: Dr. Holly Mansell), **Joshua Allen** (Pharmacy MSc, supervisors: Drs. Hector Caruncho and Lisa Kalynchuk), and **Katherine Ford** (Nutrition MSc, supervisor: Dr. Susan Whiting)!

We will be welcoming two new students to our program this January: Master's student **Pardis Keshavarz**, who will be studying with Dr. Hassan Vatanparast, and **Saniya Alwani**, who will be starting her PhD studies with Dr. Ildiko Badea.

External Student Awards

Allison Cammer, Nutrition PhD student studying with Drs. Susan Whiting and Debra Morgan, was awarded a student poster prize for presenting her doctoral research at the 10th Annual Dementia Summit held in Saskatoon on October 23-24th. She was also awarded a \$1000 trainee travel stipend award from CIHR's Institute of Aging and CIHR's Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health, and Addiction to present her research at the 10th Canadian Conference on Dementia held in Toronto November 1-4th.

Future student **Parisa Jandaghi**, who intends to begin her PhD studies in Nutrition with Dr. Hassan Vatanparast next September, has been awarded a Dean's Scholarship by the College of Graduate Studies and Research.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Student Poster Presentations

Several students presented posters at the 2017 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting and Exposition held in San Diego, California from November 12th to 15th this year:

Frank De Silva, PhD student studying with Dr. Jane Alcorn, presented a poster entitled *Lignans Modulate Cancer Cell Lipid Metabolism and Trafficking, and Activate Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress to Sensitize Inhibitors Targeting the PI3K-AKT-mTOR Axis*.

Ahlam Hawsawi, MSc student studying with Dr. Jane Alcorn, received a College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Travel Award to present her poster *Flax Lignan or its Glucuronides Modulate Hepatocellular Cholesterol Metabolism*.

Munawar Mohammed, MSc student studying with Dr. Ellen Wasan, received a College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Travel Award to present his poster *Development of Once Daily Mycophenolate Mofetil (MMF) Sustained Released Oral Nanoparticles*.

Mays Al-Dulaymi (PhD student with Drs. Anas El-Aneed and Ildiko Badea), **Waleed Mohammed-Saied** (PhD student with Drs. Badea and El-Aneed), **Shelley Yang** (PhD student with Dr. Jane Alcorn), and **Ayat Zagzoog** (MSc student with Dr. Azita Haddadi) also presented posters.

Students also presented posters at the 30th Annual Tandem Mass Spectrometry Workshop held in Lake Louise, AB from November 29th to December 2nd:

Fatma Elessawy, MSc student studying with Drs. Anas El-Aneed and Randy Purves, presented her poster *Quantification of polyphenols in seed coat extracts of four cultivars of faba bean (Vicia faba L.) using LC-MRM*

Kang Jiang, MSc student studying with Dr. Anas El-Aneed received a College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Travel Award to present his poster *Establishment of universal tandem mass spectrometric fingerprint of phytosterols in canola oil deodorization distillate with atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI)*.

U of S AAPS Student Chapter Update

The AAPS Visiting Scientist Day was held on Wednesday, September 13, included Dr. Andy Vick, Corporate Vice President, Safety Assessment, at Charles River Laboratories. Dr. Vick presented two talks titled “PK/PD Modeling of Peptide Drug Candidates: KAI-4169 case study” and “Continual Evolution of the Pharma Industry and Career Tips”.





RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

RESEARCH FUNDING

Through the college's Research Infrastructure Program, **Anas El-Aneed** received \$35,950 for an Agilent HPLC system interfaced with an existing QTRAP 4000 mass spectrometer and **Ed Krol, Ellen Wasan, and Kate Dadachova** jointly received \$13,149 for maintenance and upgrade to four HPLC systems.

Kate Dadachova received a Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) Establishment grant in the amount of \$120,000 over 3 years for her study titled "Development of Novel Radiopharmaceuticals to Combat Systemic Fungal Infections".

Meena Sakharkar was awarded a 3-year \$120,000 SHRF Establishment grant for the project "Developing Combination Therapy to Treat Androgen-Insensitive Prostate Cancer".

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *Alrefai, D., Jones, J., El-Matary, W., **Whiting S.J.**, Aljebreen A., Mirhosseini, N., **Vatanparast, H.** 2017. The association of vitamin D status with disease activity in a cohort of crohn's disease patients in Canada. *Nutrients*, 9(10), art. no. 1112.
- **Blackburn, D.F.**, Gill, M., **Krol, E.**, **Taylor, J.** 2017. Natural Health Products and Community Pharmacy—Remove the Mysticism Not the Product. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, 30(6), pp. 590-592.
- *Gachumi, G., **El-Aneed, A.** 2017. Mass Spectrometric Approaches for the Analysis of Phytosterols in Biological Samples. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 65(47), pp. 10141-10156.
- *Hall, A.R., Arnold, C.J., Miller, G.G., **Zello, G.A.** 2017. Infant Parenteral Nutrition Remains a Significant Source for Aluminum Toxicity. *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*, 41(7), pp. 1228-1233.
- *Iyyanar, P.P.R., **Nazarali, A.J.** 2017. Hoxa2 inhibits bone morphogenetic protein signaling during osteogenic differentiation of the palatal mesenchyme. *Frontiers in Physiology*, 8(NOV), art. no. 929.
- Malo, M.E., Bryan, R.A., Shuryak, I., **Dadachova, E.** 2017. Morphological changes in melanized and non-melanized *Cryptococcus neoformans* cells post exposure to sparsely and densely ionizing radiation demonstrate protective effect of melanin. *Fungal Biology*. Article in Press.
- **Mansell, K.**, Edmunds, K., Guirguis, L. 2017. Pharmacists' Scope of Practice: Supports for Canadians with Diabetes. *Canadian Journal of Diabetes*. Article in Press.
- Marcinow, M.L., Randall Simpson, J.A., **Whiting, S.J.**, Jung, M.E., Buchholz, A.C 2017. Young Adults' Perceptions of Calcium Intake and Health: A Qualitative Study. *Health Education and Behavior*, 44(6), pp. 898-906.
- Mazidi, M., Karimi, E., Rezaie, P., **Vatanparast, H.** 2016. The impact of vitamin D supplement intake on vascular endothelial function; a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Food and Nutrition Research*, 61(1), art. no. 1273574.
- Mazidi, M., Shivappa, N., Wirth, M.D., Hebert, J.R., **Vatanparast, H.**, Kengne, A.P. 2017. The association between dietary inflammatory properties and bone mineral density and risk of fracture in US adults. *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 71(11), pp. 1273-1277.
- Mazumder, M., Ponnann, P., Das, U., Gourinath, S., Khan, HA, **Yang, J.**, **Sakharkar, M.K.** 2017. Investigations on Binding Pattern of Kinase Inhibitors with PPAR γ : Molecular Docking, Molecular Dynamic Simulations, and Free Energy Calculation Studies. *PPAR Research*, 2017, art. no. 6397836.
- *Mohammed, M.A., *Syeda, J.T.M., **Wasan, K.M.**, **Wasan, E.K.** 2017. An overview of chitosan nanoparticles and its application in non-parenteral drug delivery. *Pharmaceutics*, 9(4), art. no. 53.
- *Okello, D.O., *Iyyanar, P.P.R., Kulyk, W.M., *Smith, TM, Lozanoff, S., Ji, S., **Nazarali, A.J.** 2017. Six2 Plays an Intrinsic role in regulating proliferation of mesenchymal cells in the developing palate. *Frontiers in Physiology*, 8(NOV), art. no. 955.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

- Savla, R., Browne, J., Plassat, V., **Wasan, KM, Wasan, EK.** 2017. Review and analysis of FDA approved drugs using lipid-based formulations. *Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy* 43 (11), 1743-1758.
- Selbmann, L., Pacelli, C., Zucconi, L., **Dadachova, E.**, Moellerc, R., de Vera, J.-P., Onofri, S. 2017. Fungal Resistance of an Antarctic cryptoendolithic black fungus to radiation gives new insights of astrobiological relevance. *Biology*. Article in Press
- **Rotter, T.**, Plishka, C., Hansia, M.R., Goodridge, D., Penz, E., Kinsman, L., *Lawal, A., O'Quinn, S., Buchan, N., Comfort, P., Patel, P., Anderson, S., Winkel, T., Lang, R.L., Marciniuk, D.D. 2017. The development, implementation and evaluation of clinical pathways for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Saskatchewan: Protocol for an interrupted times series evaluation. *BMC Health Services Research*, 17(1), art. no. 782.
- Ward, S., Bélanger, M., Donovan, D., **Vatanparast, H.**, Engler-Stringer, R., Leis, A., Carrier, N. 2017. Lunch is ready... But not healthy: An analysis of lunches served in childcare centres in two Canadian provinces. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 108(4), pp. e342-e347.
- **Wasan, K.M., Wasan, E.K.**, Kalra, J. 2017. A check-up on Canada's health system. *The Lancet* 390 (10110), 2341-2342.
- Zhang, T., Kingwell, E., Zhu, F., Petkau, J., Kastrukoff, L.F., Marrie, R.A., Tremlett, H., **Evans, C.** 2017. Effect of adherence to the first-generation injectable immunomodulatory drugs on disability accumulation in multiple sclerosis: A longitudinal cohort study. *BMJ Open*, 7(9), art. no. e018612.